



A Daily Publication of the 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Special Edition

Saturday, October 16, 2004

## 2004 Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award Recipient

**Paula Moran, Certified Therapeutic Recreation Therapist  
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, Prescott**

She started out in physical therapy, but soon realized that her true calling was in the field of recreation therapy. In her career, she has worked as a recreation therapist at three different Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers. She began her involvement with the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival nearly a decade ago, by preparing local participants to enter both the visual and performing arts categories of the event. She was the local host site coordinator for the 2001 Festival in Prescott, the national art chairperson in 2003 and visual arts assistant this year. This year, Paula (Marks) Moran is the 2004 Shirley Jefferies Award winner.

Growing up in Greeley, Colo., Moran's goal early in life was to help people achieve a healthier lifestyle. She enrolled at the University of Colorado in Boulder as a physical education major, received certification as a physical therapy assistant and was interested in pursuing a career as a physical therapist. When she learned about the emerging field of recreation therapy, however, she found this to be a perfect fit, changed majors and graduated with her degree in that field.



Paula Moran, 2004 Shirley Jefferies Award Recipient

Soon after graduation, Moran applied for a position as a recreation therapist at the VA Medical Center in Hot Springs, S.D. Ron Foster, also a recreation therapist at the Hot Springs facility, worked with Moran in those early days and describes her as "energetic, motivated to try new activities and outgoing with the veterans. She opened her heart to everyone and was very professional and dedicated to the job," Foster said.

After a year in Hot Springs, Moran learned of an opening at the Phoenix VA Medical Center, applied and was hired. She eventually transferred to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System in Prescott and has been there for the past 12 years. Currently, Moran serves as the lead recreation therapist at the Prescott facility.

In the mid-1990s, Moran began her association with the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival, preparing the Prescott veterans to enter the visual and performing arts competitions. Under her guidance, veterans receiving care from the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System have performed in numerous Festival stage shows and exhibited their first place winning artwork each Festival week. Moran's own interest and experience in

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the therapeutic arts have been an asset to her work, both locally in Prescott as well as the national Creative Arts Festivals.

In 2001, Moran served as host

site coordinator of that year’s Festival. “This role called for a tremendous commitment of time, skill, knowledge and dedication,” said Liz Mackey, National Director of the Festival, while confirming that Moran met all her commitments head-on. Mackey said, “Paula had the added stress of planning and carrying out the Festival week in the aftermath of the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. In 2001, the

Festival occurred one month later and through it all, she displayed a calming reassurance.”

In addition to serving as the 2001 Festival host site coordinator, Moran also accepted responsibility as the 2003 National Art Chairperson and as Visual Arts Assistant this year. “In these roles, she has consistently used her expertise and experience to carry out various aspects of the judging process of the national art competition,” Mackey says.

Paula Moran has given graciously of her time, talents and wealth of experience to veterans, the creative arts process and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. A true professional, she is admired and respected throughout the VA system for always putting veterans first and foremost. Congratulations, Paula, as you join the ranks of all previous recipients of the Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award. You have clearly exemplified the spirit of this award, to honor those who serve veterans through the use of artistic expression.

## The Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award

Shirley Jefferies was a recreation therapist and former chief of recreation therapy service at the VA medical center in Knoxville, Iowa. She served as Advisor to the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival until she died of cancer in 1994. Jefferies was a vital influence to the beginning of the program and the drive behind many of its changes and growth. With a heartfelt love for the arts and their therapeutic value in life, Jefferies made a lasting impact on many veterans and staff members who became involved with the event.

The Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award began in 1994. Each year, it is presented to an individual who demonstrates true dedication to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, its goals and philosophy. Through this recognition, her dedication lives on.

Past Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award recipients include:



- 1994 Don Ziska, former Director, VAMC Knoxville, Iowa
- 1995 Jennifer Lewis, Music Therapist, VAMC Temple, Texas
- 1996 Leah Givler, former Music Therapist, VAMC Coatesville, Penn.
- 1997 Linda Colletti, former Visual Arts Assistant, VAMC San Diego, Calif.
- 1998 Katharina Ryan, Recreation Therapist, VAMC Minneapolis, Minn.
- 1999 Bill Haworth, NVCAF Music Director, VAMC San Diego, Calif.
- 2000 Elizabeth Nealy, Recreation Therapist, VAMC Houston, Texas
- 2001 Jessie Herndon, Music Therapist, VAMC Chicago, Ill.
- 2002 Jean Calhoun, Music Therapist, VAMC Tomah, Wis.
- 2003 Suzanne Anderson, Music Therapist, VAMC Knoxville, Iowa





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## The Best Part of My Visit Was...

When asked to name their favorite aspects of the 2003 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, our roving ArtsGram reporter got a variety of answers. Here's what a few of this year's participants, veterans and staff had to say...



"It's been fun and great to work with veterans all week. It's been a pleasure making sure people get where they need to go all week."

Brian McClung, Transportation Chair, Salt Lake City, Utah

"I enjoy every one of the Festivals I've attended. The best part of volunteering is seeing the same faces every year and all the great hugs that come with them."

Marilyn Hobbs, Volunteer,  
Hartford, S.D.



"Hugs, hugs and more hugs is the best part of our time here. It's wonderful to give time and to contribute to veterans."

Annette Bray, Volunteer,  
Richfield, Minn,



"Working on the Festival is a very rewarding experience because we've had an opportunity to meet some of our nation's finest veterans."

Susan Huff, Public Affairs Officer  
Salt Lake City, Utah



"Art here at the Festival is a reflection of God's love, reflected from the artists' hearts into the audience. It's been a beautiful experience to see all the wonderful artists and performers."

Maureen Howell, Artist, LaCrosse, Wis.



"Winning the competition and performing in the National Creative Arts Festival is a tremendous feeling. Music has affected me by increasing my self-confidence and self-esteem. The arts are good therapy because they make a person momentarily forget their particular affliction."

Jacob Sikorski, Performer, Battle Creek, Mich.



"Winning the competition and being invited to perform at the Festival makes me feel like I actually have something to contribute to other people's happiness. Participating in the arts improves my overall attitude."

George Simmons, Performer, Holladay, Utah



Photos from  
the Festival



Visiting Red Butte  
Botanical Gardens





## Rehearsing for the Show





## Denver Awaits the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

The Mile-High City of Denver, Colo. and the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System (ECHCS) encourage all Creative Arts Festival participants to begin planning and preparing today for next year's Festival, being held October 17–23, 2005.



John Denver's "Rocky Mountain High."

Festival participants will enjoy the breathtaking locations and scenery that helped inspire Katharine Lee Bates' "America the Beautiful," and

With the Rockies as its backdrop, the City of Denver has transformed from what was once a cowtown to the nation's tenth largest downtown area. Complete with the nation's second largest performing arts complex, an assortment of history and art museums and galleries, three new sports stadiums, more than 300 restaurants, and many shopping opportunities, Denver will provide Festival participants with a variety of activities to make their week a memorable one.

The VA ECHCS Creative Arts Festival Steering Committee has been on-site in Salt Lake City all this week gathering ideas to make next year's Festival a successful one.



Downtown Denver, Colorado

Ed Thorsland, Director of the VA ECHCS said, "We truly are excited to be hosting this special program in 2005, showcasing the very special talents of our veterans in the beautiful city of Denver."

## Good Bye and Good Luck from the 2004 Media Center Crew!

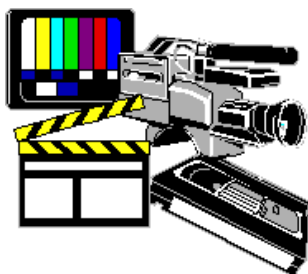
Congratulations on a job well-done!

By the time you read this, the art exhibit and show will be over and you will be ready to finally relax and enjoy the rest of your day in Salt Lake City. The special brunch and closing program will be our last opportunity to give you your final ArtsGram.

Those of us who worked in the media center thoroughly enjoyed our week with you. What an inspiration all of the participants have been to us! We did not get a chance to meet all of you or hear all of your stories, but those we did hear and those we reported have changed our lives. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Remember, when you get home and start thinking about the week and all the special people you met this week, you can log on to the Festival Web site at:

[www.creativeartsfestival.org](http://www.creativeartsfestival.org) and see all your friends again. Those of you who requested a news release will be able to download your release and see the picture posted on the site for use by media in your hometown. (Of course, all of this week's ArtsGrams are available there, too!)



The 2004 Festival media center staff.

Please be safe as you travel home. We want to encourage you to continue the pursuit of your talents. We hope to hear that you have entered the Festival again next year so we can see you in Denver!

Sincerely,

Lana Shuman (ArtsGram editor), Kim Byers, Susan Fleece, Jeff West, Joe Nguyen, Richard Olague, Laura Bishop, Jessica Jacobsen, Gene Davies, Barbara Sellon, Susan Huff, Falene Loveland, Martie Goodrich, Dave Aldredge, Quinci Peterson, Jenny Tankersley, Randy Emeterio, Judy Stutts, Sid Crandall, Mark Masser, Bobby Poff, Susan DeKeyzer, Butch Miller, Bill Browning, and Patrick Gault.



# F.Y.I

## Hospitality Room

The Hospitality Room, operated by friendly volunteers, offers snacks, soft drinks, juices and coffee for all Festival participants, staff and volunteers. Open today from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Willow Room on the fourth floor.



## Professional Continuing Education

The final course for the Festival will be conducted in the Connor Room on the first floor at 6:30 p.m. this evening. Caren Carner, CCS, will speak about: "Therapeutic Arts at Walter Reed Army Medical Center."

## Medical Support Room



The medical support team will be located on the second floor, room 202, and available at all times during the Festival week. If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader.

We hope that you have enjoyed your stay in Salt Lake City. We have certainly enjoyed working with and getting to know veterans from all over the country. Your creative spirit will live on here after you leave. Thank you for letting us be a part of your celebration!

~ Medical Support Team



## Departure Information

Be sure to be in the hotel lobby with all luggage packed, identified and not locked **at least two hours** before your flight departure time on the day you depart. Transportation has been arranged to get you to the airport.

## Saturday's Weather

Partly Cloudy

High 75° - Low 51°

## Sunday's Weather

Showers

High 69° - Low 48°



## Saturday, October 16

### Brunch - From Sea to Shining Sea

Orange Pecan French Toast  
with Orange Caramel Syrup  
Ham and Cheese Omelettes  
Crisp Bacon and Country Sausage  
Rosemary Roasted Potatoes  
Grilled Seasonal Vegetables  
Mandarin Green Salad  
Fresh Seasonal Fruit Display  
Assorted Breakfast Sweets and Bagels  
Lemon Ice Water  
Orange and Apple Juice  
Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate  
Low Fat Milk

### Fall Season Buffet

Sliced Roast Turkey with Gravy  
Cranberry Sauce  
Baked Glazed Ham  
Mashed Potatoes  
Chef's Holiday Stuffing  
Seasoned Green Beans  
Salad Greens with Assorted Dressing  
Dinner Rolls & Butter & Margarine  
Pumpkin Pie  
Cinnamon Apple Slices with Sugar  
Substitute  
Coffee, Lemonade, Ice Tea  
Low Fat Milk

## Sunday, October 17

### Hot Start Breakfast Buffet

Fruit Preserves, Butter, Margarine and  
Cream Cheese  
Fruit with a Honey Yogurt Dressing  
Ham, Egg and Cheese Croissant  
Yogurt, Oatmeal, Assorted Cereal  
Low Fat Milk, Tea, Hot Chocolate  
Orange, Apple, Cranberry and  
Grapefruit Juices  
Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee



# Saturday, October 16



**Artists**



**and**



**Performers**



**10:00 a.m.**

Board buses and depart for the Closing Brunch and Ceremonies at the Wells Fargo Center.

**Dress:**

Casual dress, due to touring afterward.

**Things to remember:**

\*Wear your name badge/meal plan sticker

Jacket

Camera

Money (if you wish to purchase anything)

Umbrella (if weather is inclement)

Comfortable shoes

**10:30 a.m. — Closing Brunch and Ceremonies**

*23<sup>rd</sup> Floor Event Center, Wells Fargo Center, downtown Salt Lake City*

**1:00 p.m. — Sight-seeing in the community**

Buses will drop off groups at locations such as Temple Square, the New Main Library (an architectural wonder that includes an art gallery and shops) and the Gateway Mall. Team leaders must make certain that participants are accompanied by a family member, friend or staff member. Please use your best judgment in determining which individuals need to be accompanied by someone.

**DEPARTURES:**

If your flight is scheduled for Saturday, please be in the hotel lobby with all luggage packed, identified and not locked **at least two hours** before your flight departure time on the day you depart. Transportation has been arranged to get you to the airport.

**5:30 p.m. — Dinner**

Bonneville Grand Ballroom, First Floor

# Sunday, October 17

**6:00 - 9:00 a.m. — Breakfast**

Bonneville Grand Ballroom, First Floor

**DEPARTURES:**

If your flight is scheduled for Sunday, please be in the hotel lobby with all luggage packed, identified and not locked **at least two hours** before your flight departure time on the day you depart. Transportation has been arranged to get you to the airport.